

# What Parents Should Know about E-Bikes & E-Scooters

E-bikes are gaining popularity with teens and pre-teens as they offer independence, allow longer trips and the ability to cruise up steep hills. Hauling heavy books and equipment is a lot easier too. More kids on bikes means fewer cars on the road – a benefit for all!



No matter what type of e-device your child is riding, a parent or another experienced adult cyclist is advised to **ride with their child** to teach rules of the road and safe riding skills.

➤ If your child cannot maintain control, rides unpredictably, or has trouble handling the device in various conditions, they are not ready for an e-bike or e-scooter.



**E-bikes** As of 2023, no law prohibits minors from riding Class 1 or 2 e-bikes which have maximum assist speeds of 20 mph. To operate a class 3 e-bike, which can provide assisted speeds of up to 28 mph, **riders must be at least 16**, although a driver's license is not required.

- Sidewalk riding is not permitted in most places, and in most cases, is less safe than riding in the bike lane.
- The speed limit on multi-use trails is 15 mph.
- E-bikes are heavy and harder to maneuver; it takes longer to stop at higher speeds.
- Beware: many e-bikes can be easily modified after purchase to go faster than 20 mph. Tech-savvy kids may be riding at unsafe speeds for their experience levels.

**Under age 17:** Helmets required for **all** bikes, e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, & skates. Adults must wear helmets on Class 3 e-bikes.

**E-scooters** CA law **requires a driver's license** for e-scooters; children younger than 16 cannot legally ride e-scooters.

- E-scooters can't be ridden on sidewalks or multi-use trails.
- Riding tandem, with a buddy, is not allowed.
- The speed limit for scooters in bike lanes is 15 mph.
- E-scooter riders must follow all the same rules of the road as drivers.